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GRANT HER THIS: SHE'S PROLIFIC

HALIGONIAN JENN GRANT PERFORMS THIS WEEKEND **PAGE 11**



Employees who 'lynched' black statue fired

An August incident at a Dartmouth Leon's store has led to several staff changes **PAGE 5**

Obama gets Senate panel backing for strike on Syria

Resolution moves to more reluctant Republican-controlled House **PAGE 8**



APPRECIATING FANS' APPRECIATION

Ben Bates, 9, gets his photo taken with Darcy Ashley, left, and Trey Lewis of the Halifax Mooseheads during a fan-appreciation event for season ticket holders on Wednesday evening at the Metro Centre. The Mooseheads kick off their 2013-14 season next Thursday night at home against the Moncton Wildcats. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

It's up to you, undecided voters

Provincial election.

Nearly half of respondents to new poll still undecided

A new poll shows the provincial Liberal party holding on to a shrinking lead over the NDP among decided voters — but experts say that's not the most significant result, days ahead of an expected election call.

pected election call.

The Corporate Research Associates poll shows the Grits with a 10-point lead over the NDP in voter support, down from 19 points in May.

Forty-one per cent of respondents said they were undecided.

"That's plenty of margin for (the NDP) winning the undecided over to their party and wiping out the Liberal lead among the de-

cided," said St. Francis Xavier University political scientist Jim Bickerton.

But CRA president Margaret Brigley said an additional question to undecided poll respondents reveals better news for the Liberals.

"We asked, 'If you were leaning towards a party, which would that be?'" she said. "Pretty much half of the undecided base ... (is) really unsure. Those that do know tend to be leaning to-

wards Stephen McNeil."

Brigley said the NDP results may reflect general apathy with the political process, and possibly dissatisfaction with Nova Scotia's first New Democratic government.

"There are a lot of people who chose to support the NDP for the first time last election with really high expectations perhaps," she said. "Results suggest people just aren't really happy with

their performance."

Bickerton said having so many people undecided so close to an election means it's the campaign that will make the difference. "Some would argue until you're halfway through an election, people still aren't fully bringing their minds to bear on making that choice," she said.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

More coverage, page 3



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Like school in summer...

SMU shocked after video of 'sexist' frosh chant

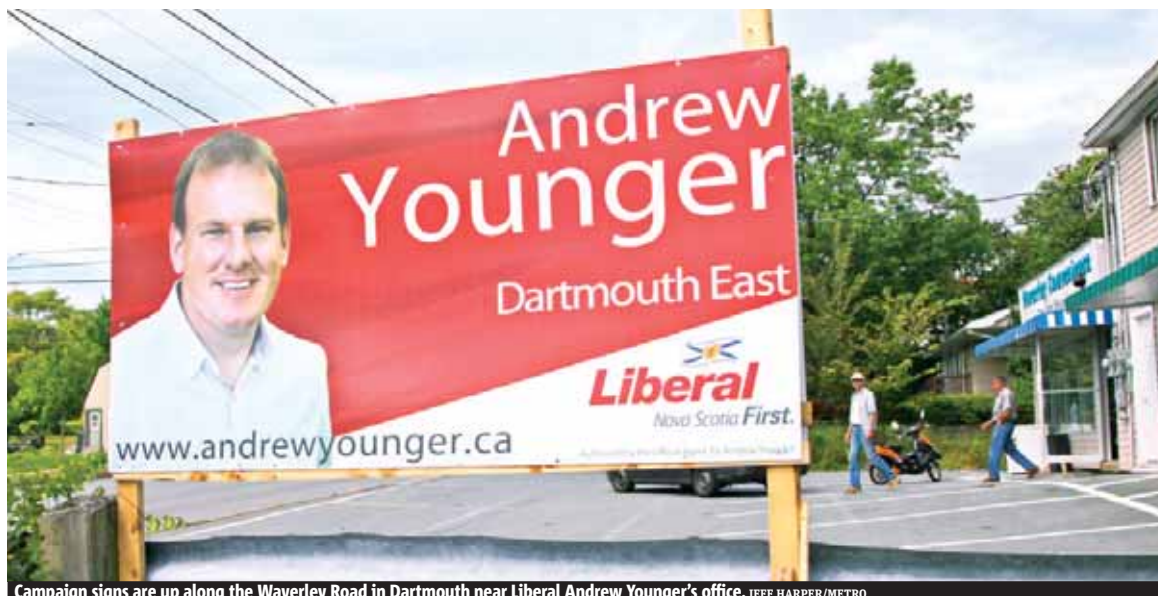
A spokesman for Saint Mary's University in Halifax says senior administrators were shocked after seeing a video of students in a frosh-week chant condoning non-consensual sex with underage girls.

Steve Proctor says the "sexist and offensive" chant posted on Instagram was led by student orientation leaders at the campus.

Proctor says the Labour Day incident occurred just days after senior school administrators and police met with student union officials and orientation organizers stressing the importance of discouraging sexism and sexual assault during frosh week. "We were surprised," he said. "The senior director of student services had met with the (student) executive and the organizing committee ... and spoke about these very issues and the need to be respectful."

He says the student union has apologized for the incident and promised the chant will no longer be part of frosh week activities.

Proctor said he was uncertain of the precise history of the song, but added a less sexist version had been sung on the campus in the past. He said this year's version, which states Saint Mary's male students prefer non-consensual sex with underage girls, was more sexually charged than earlier chants. "It's certainly the last year the chant will be sung," he said, adding all of the student leaders involved in orientation week and the three members of the student union executive will take sensitivity training. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Campaign signs are up along the Waverley Road in Dartmouth near Liberal Andrew Younger's office. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Numbers down for NDP: Pollster

Decided voters. New political poll shows New Democrats losing ground in metro to Liberals

A provincial election could still be weeks or even months away, but the president of a local polling company says new numbers suggest re-election won't be easy for the NDP.

The latest Corporate Research Associates survey shows the provincial Liberals leading the NDP among decided voters by 10 points — and now leading in the historical New Democrat strong-

hold of metro Halifax.

"If you look at decided voters, in metro it's 38 per cent would vote Liberal, 37 per cent NDP," said CRA president Margaret Brigley. "That's certainly a different scenario than was the case leading up to the election in 2009."

Although the number of respondents satisfied with the government's overall performance has climbed by two per cent over the last quarter to 42, Brigley said that's no reason for the NDP to cheer.

"In our history of polling, we've never seen a provincial government re-elected without a 50 per cent satisfaction mark," she said. "If they've got 42 per cent of the popu-

Premier's support

19%

Premier Dexter's support among decided voters, compared to 32 per cent prior to the 2009 election

lation that are satisfied with them, they basically have to get all of those out to vote."

All three party leaders are less popular than their parties, which Brigley said is problematic heading into election with nearly half of voters saying they're undecided.

"Darrell Dexter was one of the main reasons for the party getting elected (in 2009)," she

said. "More than ever this election will be about the leaders. Whichever leader can demonstrate competence is most likely to gain support."

St. FX political scientist Jim Bickerton said history has proven that pre-election polls should be taken with a grain of salt.

"Look what happened in B.C., in Manitoba... Incumbent governments trailing in the polls, in B.C. by 20 points," he said. "The campaign does matter, in other words."

The poll surveyed 1,601 Nova Scotians from Aug. 8 to Aug. 31. The margin of error is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times. **RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO**

1 NEWS

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Rainy-day booze blues for NSLC

First-quarter results.
Rain, lots of it, helps
dry up beer sales

**RICHARD
WOODBURY**
halifax@metronews.ca

Bad weather can lead to grumpy people and, apparently, it can also affect booze sales. — for the worse.

“For us, we see that both on the bars/restaurants side of our business, as well as our store retail business,” Mike Maloney, Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation spokesperson, said on Wednesday.

Regarding the poor weather, NSLC cited a 30 per cent increase in precipitation as being a driving factor behind its first-quarter results. Sales for the quarter run from April 1 to June 30.

Frosty reception

48.7%

The percentage of beer sales in the NSLC's first-quarter sales results.



People seemed less inclined to try in their beer over the rainy weather, NSLC first-quarter results suggest.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

NSLC announced first-quarter sales were down \$2 million compared to last year, and totalled \$147 million. As well, net income from the first quarter slipped by \$1.4 million compared to last year. Net income fell to \$57.1 million.

Other factors behind the reduced sales included the timing of Easter sales, which were accounted for in the previous fiscal year.

In the beverage categor-

ies, sales of beer, spirits and ready-to-drink all fell. Beer, in fact, was down 5.8 per cent in sales volume and 3.8 per cent in sales revenue.

“Beer, in particular, is definitely affected by the weather,” Maloney said.

However, he said the correlation between the weather and spirits/ready-to-drink categories is not easily pinpointed.

The only category that experienced a sales increase in the first quarter compared to last year's results was wine. Sales rose 5.1 per cent to \$30.5 million this year.

During the quarter, sales of Nova Scotia wines were up 25 per cent, more than the 22 per cent growth last year.

Maloney said any number of factors could be driving the improved wine results, including people's expanding taste buds.

“Wine as a category has an incredibly diverse flavour palate,” Maloney said. “There's all kinds of different things to discover on the wine front and I think people are finally realizing that.”

He also said the antioxidant properties of wine could be another factor.

Rising cost of education

Tuition rises for Maritimes universities

Tuition for undergraduate arts and science students at regional universities has risen between 2.1 and 8.8 per cent for this school year, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission says. The organization says tuition fees vary by school, ranging between \$5,360 and \$7,270. In Nova Scotia, where undergraduate tuition fee increases are capped at three per cent, tuition costs anywhere between \$6,000 and \$7,270.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoring up defences

\$3M

Under the program, the province is providing \$3 million a year for the next five years to pay for measures that reduce the risk of floods.

ize riverbanks and remove sediment from stream beds, as well as pay for the installation of monitoring stations. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Funding. Colchester County gets cash for anti-flooding measures

The province has approved eight construction projects to minimize the risk of flood damage in Colchester County.

The money is coming from a program that provides money for flood-mitigation measures across the province for vulnerable communities.

The government is spending \$700,000 on the projects in Colchester County.

The money being spent in the Truro area, which was damaged by floods last year, will raise dikes, stabil-



Sculpture recalls school days past and present

Artist Ian Sandler stands beneath his creation titled School Chair, the public-art display that was unveiled on Wednesday at the Lofts at Greenvale in Dartmouth. The 15-foot-high installation honours the site's origins as a school, before it was repurposed into an apartment building in 2010. **RICHARD WOODBURY/FOR METRO**

Update on ferry to come in radio interview: Minister

Political football

- The ferry link was mothballed in December 2009 after the NDP government cut its subsidies, which provoked sharp criticism in the region.

The province will give an update on Thursday on the state of negotiations with the company chosen to re-establish the ferry link from Yarmouth to Maine.

Economic Development Minister Graham Steele will be in Yarmouth to make an announcement during an interview on a local radio station.

He wouldn't reveal any more details, saying only that he had promised last month to provide an update on whether the province would do business with STM Quest Inc. or move on to another bidder.

“I've tried to lay out the process very precisely that at this

point we'd know whether this was the right company or not. So I'm going to tell people what path that we're on.”

STM Quest — a joint venture between U.S.-based companies ST Marine Ltd. and Quest Navigation — was selected last month to set up and run the

service between Yarmouth and Portland. Other bids were from Balearia Caribbean and P&O Ferries.

Steele said he is announcing the update on the radio because he feels people in the region are owed an explanation of where the government is going. “Radio is more democratic in the sense that it is more widely available to people ... they can all hear it at the same time,” he said.

Political officials and business leaders have complained the loss of the ferry has led to job losses and been a hammer blow to the local economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leon's. Employees fired after black-statue hanging

A Leon's Furniture outlet in Dartmouth is apologizing and has provided its staff with sensitivity and diversity training after firing two employees over the hanging of a black statue.

The furniture store says it fired the two workers after it conducted an investigation into the incident last month.

The company says an investigation was launched after senior management became aware of the incident on Aug. 16.

Leon's says the bronze statue with black patina was taped and hung to an office window and altered so that its eyes and mouth were whitened.

The company did not return messages seeking comment.

The incident was revealed by a former Leon's employee, who has lodged a complaint of racial discrimination with the provincial Human Rights Commission.

According to the CBC, Elsworth Bottomsley told the commission he quit after the statue lynching, which followed several other racially motivated incidents over the previous two years.

Another Leon's employee who is also alleging racial discrimination by the furniture store is seeking to introduce the statue lynching as evidence in her case.

Garnette Cromwell resigned after a manager referred to her employee evaluation as a "lynching."

The CBC reports lawyers for Leon's opposed the application Wednesday, saying the lynching incident happened well after Cromwell's resignation in 2008, and isn't relevant.

The board is considering the arguments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/METRO



Leon's Furniture in Burnside
JEFF HARPER/METRO

Death. Police pull body out of Halifax harbour

Police are treating the recovery of a body from the Halifax harbour as a suspicious death until a cause of death can be determined.

A concerned citizen reported a strange object floating in the water behind Purdy's Wharf on Upper Water Street Wednesday afternoon.

Halifax Regional Police Const. Pierre Bourdages said boats were dispatched just after 3 p.m. and the body was located about 30 minutes

later.

He said it's not known how old the victim is, whether they're male or female — or what happened.

"We have to treat it as a suspicious until we rule otherwise," he said.

The remains are being transported to the medical examiner's office. An autopsy is expected to be performed to identify the body and determine cause of death.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



Police retrieve a body from Halifax harbour near Casino Nova Scotia on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Statistics

Citizens help cops nab drunk drivers

Sixty-four drivers were charged with drunk driving in HRM in August, and another 27 had their driving privileges suspended.

Of the 91 drivers, 72 were men and 19 were women. While the majority of drivers (63.7 per cent) were identified by police during their patrols, 22 per cent came about as a result of calls from concerned citizens.

Police encourage people to call 911 if they have information about a drunk driver. METRO

Police investigation

Robbery victim knows suspect

Amherst police are investigating a possible attempted armed robbery that occurred on Cornwall Avenue on Sunday.

The victim knows the suspect and police are continuing to investigate.

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

Arts and life

Performance event series kicks off this fall

A new event series taking place at Government House in Halifax this fall will include a touch of Cape Breton.

Lt.-Gov. J.J. Grant's Evenings at Government House will include a lecture by A.J.B. Johnston on Nov. 19, titled Louisbourg and the Twists of Time.

The series of presentations, which will run Sept. 17 to Dec. 3, will feature presenters and performers from across Nova Scotia, including musicians, authors, scientists, sporting figures and more.

The series kicks off Sept. 17 with an interactive discussion featuring Halifax Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme.

All events will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. They are free and open to the public. Advance registration is required to attend.

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Water plant's woes not a drop in the bucket: Automation's soaked

Calgary flood aftermath.

Treated water may be substandard because important facility is in 'manual mode'



ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Calgary's largest wastewater treatment facility is operating in "manual mode" due to damage from ... water.

Because of the damage from June's flood, there's a "very high risk" that the plant will send treated water to the Bow River that doesn't meet provincial standards, a city report says.

"We've basically stepped back 30 years in time," said Kevin Colbran, manager of

the Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"We have the brain of our control system, but all of the field devices and cabling that sent the information to that brain were toasted in the flood."

As a result, employees have to visually monitor things such as water levels and dissolved oxygen levels in the plant's tanks and then manually turn valves to adjust flow levels and keep the treatment processes in order.

"It's more challenging," Colbran said.

"These plants are pretty complex now. They're designed with automation in mind, not manual operation."

It also takes a lot longer, he added, since employees have to travel from one part of the 50-acre site to another to make observations, then make adjustments and then double-check.



Bonnybrook operations leader Robert Kotch stands above one of the facility's clarifiers, which staff must now monitor and adjust manually after June floodwaters damaged automation systems. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Arrest warrants out for B.C. landlord

Downtown Eastside landlord George Wolsey is officially a wanted man after refusing to pay thousands in damages to former tenants of his dilapidated buildings.

The B.C. provincial court ordered 10 warrants for Wolsey's arrest on Tuesday after he repeatedly failed to show up in court to address his \$18,163.75 debt to 10 former residents of the Wonder and Palace hotels, the Pivot Legal Society announced at a news conference Wednesday.

It's a paltry sum for a

man who sold the two cockroach- and bedbug-infested single-room-occupancy hotels in Vancouver's poorest neighbourhood for about \$4 million in 2012.

Court action happened after the city issued an injunction forcing him to repair the buildings, which didn't have

Quoted

He's a tyrant, period.

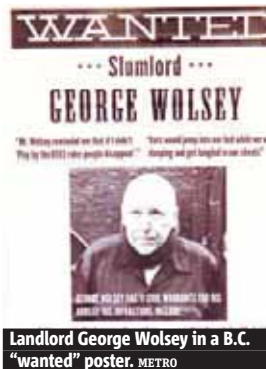
Stephen Freeman, who says he was evicted by landlord George Wolsey

functional fire escapes.

"He's a heartless S.O.B.," former resident Stephen Freeman told reporters, adding Wolsey evicted him from his mouse-ridden room for buying methadone from a different pharmacist.

Wolsey, a Langley resident who had his pharmacist licence stripped in 2004 for forcing his tenants to fill their prescriptions through him, has seven days to turn himself in or Surrey sheriff services will begin searching for him.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER



Landlord George Wolsey in a B.C. "wanted" poster. METRO

Tory tome. Hockey-mad PM pens an ode to puck

Stephen Harper can soon add another line to his resumé — published author.

The prime minister's book on the history of hockey is set to hit store shelves Nov. 5.

A Great Game: The Forgotten Leafs and the Rise of Professional Hockey looks at the early years of the game.

It will also feature photos of famous arenas and the game's earliest star players.

"Drawing on extensive archival records and illustra-

tions, histories of the sport, and newspaper files, A Great Game delves into the fascinating early years of ice hockey," publisher Simon and Schuster Canada said Wednesday.

"It tells of the hockey heroes and hard-boiled businessmen who built the game, and the rise and fall of legendary teams pursuing the Stanley Cup."

Harper has spent years preparing the book.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Guo Bin recuperates with his mother at a hospital in Taiyuan in northwest China's Shanxi province after a brutal attack that left him blind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops suspect boy's aunt gouged eyes

China. Horrific case appears to end with attacker's suicide, but still no clear motive

In the dark

"He still doesn't know that he likely will be blind the rest of his life."

Wang Wenli on the condition of her 6-year-old son after a brutal attack

Chinese authorities said Wednesday that they suspect that the woman who gouged out a six-year-old boy's eyes was his aunt who later killed herself, adding a surprising twist to a gruesome case with conflicting details.

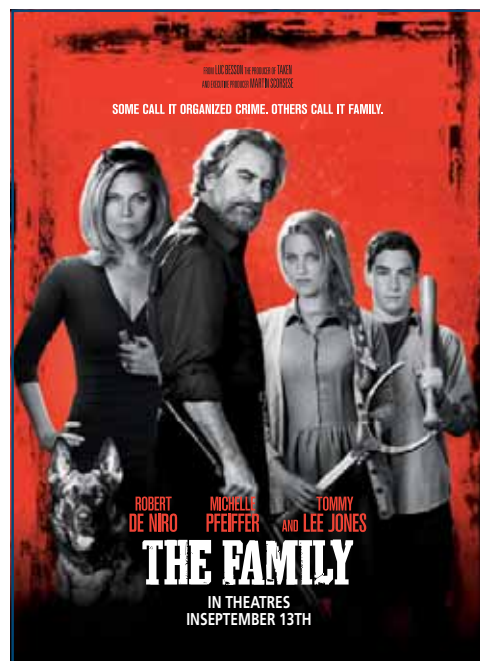
The attack on the boy horrified the Chinese public and added to outrage over violence against children in the wake

of a scandal earlier in the year involving teachers sexually abusing young girls. This time, heart-wrenching images and footage of the wailing child in hospital, his eyes bandaged and parents distraught, have circulated on the Internet as news commentaries slammed the brutality of the attack.

"Mama, why is the sky still so dark?" the child has been quoted as saying while recovering in hospital, his parents unable to bring themselves to tell him about his condition.

On Wednesday, police in the city of Linfen in northern Shanxi province confirmed an official Xinhua News Agency report that the boy's aunt, Zhang Huiying, had been identified as a suspect because his blood was found on her clothes. Six days after the boy was attacked, Zhang killed herself by jumping into a well.

Xinhua did not cite a possible motive for the aunt to attack the boy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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U.S. Senate panel votes for use of force in Syria

10-7 in favour.

President's push for military strike after alleged chemical-weapons attack gains steam in Congress

U.S. President Barack Obama's request for speedy congressional backing of a military strike in Syria advanced in the Senate on Wednesday, hours after the president left open the possibility he would order retaliation for a deadly chemical weapons attack even if Congress withheld its approval.

A resolution backing the use of force against President

Bashar Assad's government cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a 10-7 vote after it was stiffened at the last minute to include a pledge of support for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power" in Syria's civil war. It would rule out U.S. combat operations on the ground.

The measure is expected to reach the Senate floor next week, although the timetable for a vote is uncertain.

The support seen in the Senate will be harder to find in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is also reviewing Obama's request, though its timetable is even less certain. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Against unilateralism

Putin might support UN call for strike

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned the West against taking one-sided action in Syria but said Russia "doesn't exclude" supporting a UN resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Syria used poison gas on its own people. Putin expressed hope that he and Obama would discuss Syria and other issues at the G-20 summit. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Syrian refugees gather at the Turkish Cilvegözü gate border on Wednesday.
GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ariel Castro. Suicide spurs review of Ohio prison

The man who kidnapped three young women and repeatedly raped them in his Ohio home for nearly a decade hanged himself in his cell, prison officials said Wednesday.

Ariel Castro, 53, last month was sentenced to life in prison plus 1,000 years after his guilty plea in one of the most sensational criminal cases in recent U.S. history.


While in jail before his conviction, Castro was taken off suicide watch in June after authorities determined he was not a risk. An autopsy showed the death was a suicide.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio asked the prison system to conduct a full investigation. State Prison Director Gary Mohr ordered a review of Castro's medical and mental-health treatment and the circumstances surrounding his suicide. He said the state police were also investigating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wearable computing. Will there be a smartwatch in your stocking this year?

Samsung unveiled its highly anticipated digital wristwatch Wednesday, beating Apple to what could become this year's must-have holiday gift item.

So-called smartwatches, which can perform tasks such as displaying email and Twitter messages on a device worn around the wrist, have been around for several years but have failed so far to inspire great interest among ordinary consumers.

But with smartphone behemoths Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. joining the fray — and Google pushing its Google Glass gadget — experts see a chance of wearable computers breaking into the mainstream.

That is, if consumers can get used to talking to their watch, secret agent-style.

"With Gear you're able to make calls and receive calls, without ever taking your phone out of your pocket," Pranav Mistry, a member of Samsung's design team, told reporters at the launch in Berlin ahead of the annual IFA consumer electron-



A model shows off a Samsung Galaxy Gear smartwatch on Wednesday in Berlin. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ics show there.

The Gear uses Google's Android operating system, just like many of the phones and tablets made by Samsung. The South Korean electronics company said the Gear can act as an extension to a smartphone by discreetly alerting users to incoming messages and calls on its display screen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economic forecasting

If a recession is coming, Google is first to know

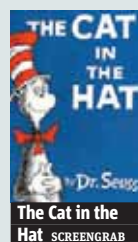
A new report suggests that analyzing Google search trends could predict a recession more quickly than traditional GDP data, which are available only after a two-month lag. The report by the C.D. Howe Institute says this kind of real-time data mining could allow policymakers to respond more quickly to weakening economic conditions.

Report author Greg Tkacz says when many people plug the same economic terms into Google, it can provide a clue about changing conditions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Publishing

Dr. Seuss classics go digital this fall



The Cat in the Hat SCREENGRAB

Make that the e-Cat in the Hat. Dozens of Dr. Seuss classics, including The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham, will be available this fall for the first time as e-books. Random House Children's Books announced Wednesday that the first 15 will come out Sept. 24, followed by additional publications in October and November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



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Granite & Marble Fabricator

Address: 15 Lakelands Boulevard, Halifax, NS B3S 1G4, Canada

Job Type: Full-Time

Granite & Marble Fabricator wanted for shop in Bayers Lake Park in Halifax. Full time employment, starting at \$15/hr. Minimum 5 years experience.

Cook wanted for Greek Cuisine in Bayers Lake restaurant

Address: 15 Lakelands Boulevard, Halifax, NS B3S 1G4, Canada

Job Type: Full-Time

Cook wanted for restaurant that specializes in Greek/European Cuisine, full time employment, must have at least 3 years experience, and starting at \$13/hr.

Pastry Makers specializing in Greek/Middle Eastern pastries

Address: 15 Lakelands Boulevard, Halifax, NS B3S 1G4, Canada

Job Type: Full-Time

Pastry Makers specializing in Greek/Middle Eastern pastries needed for Pastry Shop in Bayers Lake Park, minimum 5 years experience, starting at \$13/hr.

For more info please call Peter at 830-3445

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If you've noticed your collection of obsolete electronics growing, then it's time for you to drop them off, free of charge, at your local Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) Drop-off Centre. Electronic products are banned from provincial landfills and there is a better, more environmentally responsible way to dispose of electronics that also helps conserve precious natural resources.



EPRA – formerly known as ACES

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To find a Drop-off Centre near you or for more information about electronics recycling, visit recycleMYelectronics.ca/ns or call 1.877.462.8907

NOT ALL TEACHERS ARE MADE EQUAL

Teachers, am I right?

In honour of the beginning of the school year, this was a test.

Did you respond to the mere mention of the profession with rage, fed up with union-protected whiners who don't realize how good they've got it, what with their summer break, free apples by the deskload and brightly coloured chalk?

Or did your eyes tear up at the very thought of these educational exemplars, the second most noble profession (just behind humour columnist), preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow despite the slings and spitballs of the Grocery Store Cashiers of Tomorrow?

Middle ground often seems like a no-man's land when it comes to the battle between pro- and anti-teacher camps.

People love labels. All of us do. It's so much easier than thinking. People can be racist. Some people are classist. Others are



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

regionalist, deciding that 5.5 million people in the Greater Toronto Area are latte-quaffing liberals or that four million Albertans are cow-romancing conservatives — all mayoral election results to the contrary.

And some people are, uh, professionalist. While teacher-bashing is more popular at the moment — teacher-praising seems reserved these days for teachers and their relatives — I've rarely heard an attempt at a balanced opinion. Educators are either heroes or heels, full stop.

Here's a hypothetical conversation:

"Must be nice to be done at three o'clock and get the whole summer off," says a teacher hater.

"Teaching is the most important profession we have, and in a just society they'd be paid as much as doctors," says a teacher lover.

"There are many excellent teachers who are making a real difference, yet there are some awful teachers who are protected

too readily by their peers," says a third person, joining in.

"Kaboom!" go the heads of the other two, like characters in a violent video game being played in the back of a classroom as we speak.

Here's the thing: I remember a theatre-arts teacher who gave us a taste of Macbeth and A Raisin in the Sun in a way that made us crave more, and I remember a French teacher who showed us Weekend at Bernie's. In English. Without subtitles.

The teaching profession is a mixed bag, just like every other profession except for astronauts and air-traffic controllers (one hopes). I choose to give individual teachers the benefit of the doubt until given reason not to.

After all, these are people who deal with classes packed tighter than a New York sidewalk, and often face junior high students without a chair and whip. And how does one deal with issues like bullying and burgeoning sexuality when, as I recall, all it takes to create chaos in a classroom is one stray bumblebee?

Last time I checked, teachers are people. Sorry to be so controversial.

ZOOM

Fish killed in polluted Chinese river



GETTY IMAGES

Factory blamed for ammonia leak

This was the scene on a 40-kilometre stretch of the Fuhe River in China after a chemical spill killed about 100,000 kilograms of fish, mainly chub, carp and snakehead. High levels of ammonia leaked into the river from a factory, and the owner has been ordered to stop operating.

The government claims the river is now cleared. **METRO**

Other animal tragedies

- 16,000 pigs were found floating in a Shanghai river this year.
- Also this year, 1,000 dead ducks were seen in the rivers of Sichuan province.
- Similar to now, more than 40,000 kilograms of fish were killed after the 2012 spill of toxic chemical cadmium in a Guangxi river.

Fishermen's losses

\$11,400

The loss per day that local fishermen will suffer, which could have a devastating effect on the area's economy.

No comment from science company

The Hubei province environmental protection department, notified of the piles of dead fish on Monday, pointed the finger at local company Hubei Shuanghuan Science and Technology Stock Co. The company said it wasn't going to immediately comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait



HANNAH ZITNER

hannah.zitner@metronews.ca



Darwin the Ikea monkey made his first public appearance Dec. 9, 2012.

BRONWYN PAGE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

If you've ever tried to find an old tweet, you know that Twitter's search function is of lamentable quality — at best. Topsy, the social-media-analytic king, has now fixed that wee problem and indexed every tweet ever sent. Ever. That's about 425 billion pieces of content, according to the New York Times. So what can you do with this while companies figure how to get rich from it? Have fun playing a spirited game of first tweets.

Ikea monkey

Where did the first Ikea monkey tweet come from?

Bieber

What was his first tweet?

Trudeau and pot

Find out just how far back the Trudeau pot-smoking story surfaced.

Twitter



row with e-readers?

@metropicks asked: Dr. Seuss books are coming out in e-editions. Do kids miss out on anything by using an e-reader?

@Canucklehead_ca: Good luck with that e-reader at a book signing! (See also: in direct sunlight.)

@BrianBlatnicki: how do you bor-

@canadiansteph: how can you tell which books are more loved than others? My son's most loved book is torn and bent, and loved:)

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Grant to bring 'special show'

Concert. Sound and sight both offered as local singer-songwriter creates concert to appeal to both senses



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

The last time I spoke to local singer-songwriter Jenn Grant she was celebrating the release of her album, *The Beautiful Wild*.

A constant creator, Grant has spent the interim challenging herself to "write as much as possible" in preparation for her next tour, which stops at The Marquee Ballroom on Saturday night.

Though her methods are considered speedy, Grant is sensitive to the challenge of avoiding sacrificing quality for quantity.

"I'm not rushing the inspiration but I can write music pretty quickly and then I like to just sit with the music," she said. "That's why we're doing this tour — it's a chance to take the new material out and see how the audience reacts to the songs, it's a test."

Along for the test drive is a five-piece band and, for the September dates of the tour, fellow Canadian musician Jim Bryson, "a great friend and songwriter and performer." He will not only open for Grant but also perform alongside her on stage.

With the musical side of the show taken care of, Grant also wanted to include a visual and tactile



Jenn Grant is performing at the Marquee Ballroom this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Details

What? Jenn Grant and her band with special guest Jim Bryson

Where? The Marquee Ballroom

When? Saturday, 10 p.m.

Tickets? etixnow.com

formance will be a backdrop designed by Charley Young, a printmaker and large-scale installation-based artist.

"We just got in touch through a mutual friend," said Grant. "She makes art in a different way than I do and it really lends itself well to a concert."

"It's based on the Phantom Limb Syndrome (a neurological condition in which amputees perceive sensations from their missing limbs) something I have always found interesting and beautiful. We are

Quoted

"I've been writing all summer and getting ready to tour again doing a sneak peek tour."

Singer-songwriter Jenn Grant

really honoured to take that with us on tour."

Grant is also using this tour as a test run for some new material, and her set list will also include material

from her side project, Aqua Alta (aquaaltamusica.com). Unveiled earlier this summer, this collaboration features Charles Austin, from the band Super Friendz, and producer Graeme Campbell, who has worked with musicians like David Myles and Skratz Bastid.

Aqua Alta will perform later this fall as part of the Halifax Pop Explosion.

"I'm excited to bring the new material home," she said. "I'm trying to do everything we can do to make it a special show."

2 SCENE



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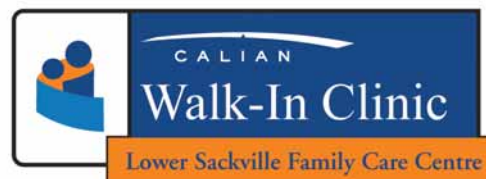
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Keeping mum, finding sympathy for the devil

Lydia. Breaking Bad star Laura Fraser on making a "demented," corporate drug trafficker sympathetic and the pain of staying tight-lipped

NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Scottish actress Laura Fraser is eager for Breaking Bad fans to finally see the end of the series, which has its finale Sept. 29 — mostly because she's getting tired of keeping her mouth shut about how the whole thing ends.

How much did you know about how things would play out as you were filming the final episodes?

I got to read all the episodes for this season, but while we were shooting them I had no idea. I got the

scripts just a few days before, maybe sometimes a week before we shot them. I feel kind of smug right now because I know how it ends.

How much are you allowed to say about it, speaking as obliquely as possible?

Well, it's terrible. It's very hard to do interviews about the show. It's such a secret that you reveal anything under penalty of death. The person the most upset probably wouldn't be the producer of Breaking Bad, it would



Laura Fraser plays Lydia in Breaking Bad. GETTY IMAGE

be the person you told. So I've just been using, you know, metaphors and being very, very vague.

How was it coming into the show so late into its run?

It was very strange, and it still remains quite surreal for me because I came in only last spring. They all already knew each other so well; they were family, the cast and the crew. The series had been going five years at that point. It was kind of like being the new kid at school — and also like gate-crashing an amazing party that's in full swing. You feel lucky to be there but you're not sure that you fit in. But everybody made me feel really welcome.

You always play Lydia with the sense of constant clenched fear.

Yeah, she's a demented character. I mean, I didn't know how demented she was in the beginning. She seems to vibrate at a very high-pitched frequency. She's constantly in fight-or-flight mode, you know? I feel like she's gone from being rather cold to completely glacial. She's almost like a little Nazi in these last episodes. She keeps surprising me. She still comes from such a place of fear, but this greed she has is really

trumping her fear, and she's always got this keen sense of something horrendous might be about to happen. Or she might just implode or crumble into a thousand pieces or something.

The show is so good at making the audience sympathize with people who do horrible things for a living.

Yeah, they're good at that, aren't they? Even with Lydia, you got sympathetic in her first episode, that she didn't beg for her life when Mike put the gun to her head — she had this more interesting response that tells you a lot about her character and that she would fight for her daughter. But other than that I wouldn't say that Lydia's a very sympathetic character, really.

Well, I've always found her sympathetic. Really? Interesting.

What do you have planned now that the show has come to an end?

I don't know, I'm totally slacking. I'm over in Scotland right now visiting friends and family and hanging out. I have a couple of films coming out, but I'm not working right now. Yeah, I need to get a job, you've reminded me.

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Miley's motto: Don't think, just twerk

Miley Cyrus finally spoke out about her much-debated MTV Video Music Awards show with Robin Thicke.

"I don't pay attention to the negative because I've seen this play out so many times," she tells MTV.com. "Madonna's done it. Britney's done it. Every VMA performance, that's what you're looking for. You're wanting

to make history."

Cyrus is surprised by how much discussion her twerking has prompted though.

"People are still talking about it. They're overthinking it," she says. "You're thinking about it more than I thought about it when I did it. Like, I didn't even think about it because that's just me!"



Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



There is No Doubt that Stefani is pregnant

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News

Gwen Stefani, who never seems to age in spirit or looks, is proving her youthfulness yet again by getting pregnant at 43.

In Touch reports that the singer and husband Gavin Rossdale are expecting their third fabu-

lously dressed offspring sometime soon.

A "source" tells the mag the two "couldn't be happier." If true, baby number three joins brothers Kingston, 7, and Zuma, 4.

Last year, the singer told Marie Claire that she and Rossdale tried for a third but it didn't happen.

"I really, really, really wanted one about two years ago," Stefani said.

"And it didn't really work out. So... I feel good with what we've got. Everything works out how it should. You can't plan anything, right? You can try."



Simon Cowell

Those finger paintings are truly awful

Simon Cowell is going to be just fine as a father once girlfriend Laura Silverman gives birth, thank you very much.

"Once I got used to (becoming a father) I did get excited. I think I will be a good dad, so I'm excited," he tells the BBC. "I am good with kids because I like kids. I really do like them and I listen to them."

But that doesn't mean Cowell plans to change any diapers.

"I'm not doing that, 100 per cent absolutely not going near that," he insists.

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In the tents or on the town

The prospect of sidling up to Lincoln Center in New York or a cocktail party in Soho wearing your most well-worn clothes may not seem like the best idea. But help is at hand, because as these styling tips we've collected from our street style galleries prove, you don't need an endless designer wardrobe to compete during fashion month.

METRO WORLD NEWS



The Pick'n'Mix

A taxi driver once told Garance Dore that he could spot the girls working in fashion by the fact that nothing they wore matched. Pairing Breton stripes with graphic florals and a denim jacket might be unexpected in the civilian world, but in fashion the two go together like Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel. The irreverence that lies behind such a move is obvious. This tip is all about attitude, so whilst there's a fine line between experimental and, well, ugly, you'll exude confidence by daring to work it.



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ROKSANDA ILINCIC TOP,
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The Sweatshirt Effect

Ever since sports-luxe became a fashion noun, sweatshirts have slowly worked their way into the most stylish of wardrobes. Build up a go-to look by teaming a grown-up version with basic skinny jeans and a high-impact accessory such as a statement necklace or a leopard print bag.



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RODARTE SWEATER,
BROWNSFASHION.COM, \$249



MOTHER OF PEARL SWEATER,
\$355, NET-A-PORTER.COM



The Fashion Pop

By Milan fashion week the impracticality of those huge Balmain shoulders or bandaged JW Anderson sleeves will be hitting home and cravings for a more comfortable look will start to kick in. This fashionista occupied the middle ground at Italy's fashion week with a fashion pop — that one special item that lifts an entire look. In this case it's her unusual jacket that adds a finished twist to an otherwise laid-back ensemble.



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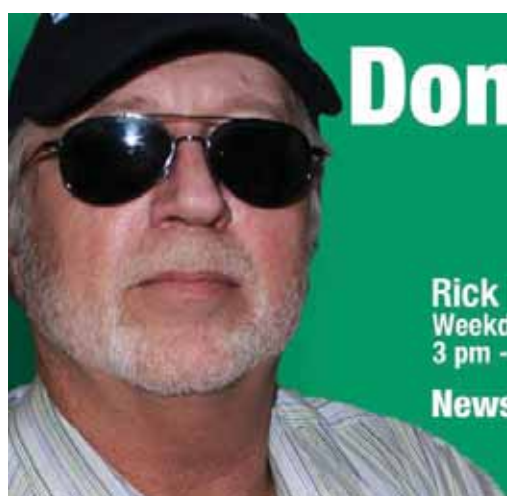


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3
TIPS



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Not using a ruler can lead to DIY disaster. But there are also some less obvious mistakes people make. ISTOCK IMAGES

Upgrade your home, not your headache

DIY ideas. With proper planning and research, you can ensure your two week renovation doesn't turn into a two year headache

It's common for DIY renovations to begin with enthusiasm and a grand vision only to fall into disorder and frustration.

To learn more about common renovation mistakes and how to reverse the damage, tune in to Rescue Renovation on DIY Network Canada. For now, here are a few tips.

1. Too much to do with too little time

It's important to remember that the larger the project, the bigger the time commitment. Be realistic with how much of your nights, weekends and vacation time

you're willing to dedicate before beginning.

2. Not doing it right the first time

Always think long term when planning your renovation. Cutting corners and costs on material and equipment may make sense now, but it will only lead to future costs for repairs and replacements.

3. Measuring once, cutting twice

There's nothing more discouraging than installing kitchen cabinets or a bathroom vanity to discover that your measurements were an inch too long. Measurements must be exact so if you doubt yourself, ask for help before placing your orders.

4. Designing trendy instead of designing smart

Trends come and go but your renovations will be with you for years. While you may want those flashy pur-

ple cabinets and to replace your stairs with a slide, your home's value is likely to decline if you decide to sell. Instead, focus on making each area of your home suited for a purpose and use furniture and decor to add your personal style.

5. Overlooking permits

Permits are probably the easiest area to overlook. Many renovations won't require permits, but if you're considering changing your home's structure, you'll need to do some research. Without the proper permit, you can be issued a stop work order and you may not be covered by insurance in case of an accident. Showing potential buyers that your DIY renovations met safety standards can really help raise the value of your home.

SEASON TWO OF RESCUE RENOVATION PREMIERES WITH BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 19 AT 10 P.M. ET/PT

Lunch. Real Tomato Soup

Delicious, satisfying and nostalgic — after making this you will never buy tomato soup in a can again!

Tamari is a "cooked" food. A

naturally fermented soy sauce that contains no preservatives or sugar, it adds a rich and salty flavour to dishes (you may choose to use a reduced-sodium

Ingredients

- 4 large tomatoes, chopped
- 2 red bell peppers, chopped
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) hemp seeds
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tbsp light miso
- 2 tbsp gluten-free tamari
- 1/2 avocado, chopped
- 1 tbsp maple syrup or a few drops stevia (optional)
- dash Himalayan salt, to taste
- dash freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tbsp chopped chives, for garnish (optional)



variety).

Most tamari contains wheat, so look for gluten-free.

1. In a blender, process tomatoes, bell peppers, hemp

seeds, lime juice, miso, tamari, avocado and maple syrup. Season to taste and garnish with chives. **RECIPES PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA**

Cookbook of the Week

Raw made easy



Promoting a balanced, flexible diet based on gluten-free and toxin-free plant foods can be easy and delicious. Natasha Kyssa sets out to prove this in her book *The SimplyRaw Kitchen*. Through 134 recipes the book features a guide to the lifestyle that's easy to follow and accessible.

Among the delicious raw dishes in *The SimplyRaw Kitchen* are Spicy Thai Salad, Spinach and Mushroom Dip, Soft Taco Verde, Romanian Cabbage Rolls, Corn and Bean Skillet and more. **METRO**

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Tigers eye three-peat as new season kicks off

AUS soccer. Loss of veteran leadership will be challenge for Dalhousie women

RICHARD WOODBURY
halifax@metronews.ca

If the pre-season is any indication, the Dalhousie Tigers women's soccer team is in for another strong year.

The team played three exhibition games, won them all, and didn't give up a single goal.

Now, the two-time defending Atlantic University Sport champions are focusing on the real season, which begins at home on Saturday against the Cape Breton Capers at 1 p.m.

"It doesn't really mean a lot," said Joanna Blodgett, one of three captains on the team, on the Tigers' success the past two seasons. "It's a new team. It's a new year, so we want to leave that behind and just start focusing on this season."

This season will be Blodgett's fifth year with Dalhousie, her final of eligibility.

She said the skill level on the team is high, but success will depend on how they jell.

"It's not necessarily the best team on paper that wins, it's kind of the team that really wants it more," said Blodgett.

One of the challenges the team faces is the loss of some key veteran leadership, notably last year's captains, Taryn McKenna and Rieka Santilli. However, some of this will be made up by the fact McKenna is remaining with the team in a



Members of the Dalhousie Tigers women's soccer team run drills during practice at Wickwire Field on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Weekend kickoff

The Saint Mary's Huskies women begin their season this weekend on the road in St. John's for two games against the Memorial Sea-Hawks.

coaching role.

A total of five players from last year's roster have moved on (including AUS all-stars McKenna and Santilli), but the new recruits this year are

expected to help make up for some of the talent loss.

Two of the new players, Monica Diab and Victoria Parkinson, are transfers from other schools and sat out last season.

"They're not coming in as rookies," said coach Jack Hutchison.

Blodgett is looking forward to the season. "I'm really excited for Saturday," she said. "We're working well together, so it will be a good game against Cape Breton."

On Saturday

Tiger men get underway vs. Cape Breton

The Dalhousie Tigers men's soccer team will kick off its season after the women do on Saturday against the Cape Breton Capers at 3:15 p.m.

The Tigers will be looking

to get over the hump this season, as it has lost in the semifinals at the past four AUS championships.

As for the Saint Mary's Huskies, they are on the road for two games against the Memorial Sea-Hawks.

The Huskies lost in last year's AUS semifinals as well.

RICHARD WOODBURY/FOR METRO

4 SPORTS

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QMJHL

Mooseheads trim roster to 25

The Halifax Mooseheads are down to 25 players on their training camp roster after forward Mike Molloy was cut by the team on Wednesday.

That leaves the Herd with three goalies, eight defencemen and 14 forwards at camp.

The 19-year-old Molloy, who is from Lawrencetown, played in three games for the Mooseheads over the past two seasons.

Halifax has one pre-season game left on Sunday in Cape Breton against the Screaming Eagles.

The Mooseheads open their 2013-14 regular-season schedule at home against the Moncton Wildcats on Sept. 12.

METRO

CFL

Concussion puts Calvillo on nine-game injured list

The Montreal Alouettes have placed veteran quarterback Anthony Calvillo on the nine-game injured list.

Calvillo suffered a concussion in a 24-21 loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Aug. 17 and hasn't practised

or played since.

Montreal is 2-0 in his absence, thanks to rookie Tanner Marsh.

Marsh came off the bench to lead Montreal to a 39-38 win over the B.C. Lions on Aug. 22.

The 23-year-old Texan made a successful debut as a CFL starter Tuesday night, completing 18 of 27 passes for 309 yards and a TD in a 20-9 win in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays go quietly in Arizona

MLB. Toronto fails to muster offence after early outburst vs. DBacks

The Toronto Blue Jays roughed up Arizona right-hander Randall Delgado right away, building a three-run lead.

Then the Blue Jays went quiet. Real quiet.

Struggling after its early burst, Toronto became the first team in 43 years to leave no runners on base in an extra-inning game, losing 4-3 to the Diamondbacks on Wednesday after Willie Bloomquist hit a run-scoring single in the 10th inning.

Arizona rallied from a three-run deficit after Delgado's shaky first inning. Diamondbacks pitchers faced the minimum from then until the 10th inning, when Will Harris (3-0) worked around a baserunner to

Bautista finished for 2013

The Toronto Blue Jays are shutting down right-fielder Jose Bautista for the rest of the season due to a nagging left hip injury.

- Bautista has been on the disabled list since Aug. 21 and manager John Gibbons said the Jays are giving the slugging outfielder more time to heal.



Jose Bautista THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

keep the game tied in Arizona's franchise record-tying 21st extra-inning game.

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It's the cup final of composting.



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Robredo no sweat for Nadal

It's as though Rafael Nadal never left. If anything, he's playing better than ever. A year after skipping the U.S. Open because of a bad knee, Nadal powered his way back to the semifinals, overwhelming 19th-seeded Tommy Robredo 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 on Wednesday night. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

No one in their right mind would knowingly annoy you so likely the reason a colleague is being such a pain today is because they are stupid rather than hateful. Don't hit back.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You like a challenge and that's just as well as the challenges now coming your way will be bigger than anything you have faced before. You will enjoy showing the world what a dynamic Taurus you are.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You may come in for criticism today but no way will you take it lying down. The more others bark at you, the more you will bark back. You may not be the biggest beast on the block but you are the loudest.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Whatever you start over the next 24 hours you must see through to completion, so make sure it is what you really want to be doing. If you are still undecided then forget it.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Today's new moon will encourage you to believe that you can do more in your career and that you can turn your talents into hard cash. Remember: If a job is worth doing it is worth getting well paid for.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Today's new moon in your sign means you are capable of feats that ordinary mortals cannot compete with. But don't do things to impress. Do them to further your ambitions.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

People are not blocking your way deliberately, although it may seem like it. Look at your own state of mind. It will tell you more than what partners or co-workers are up to.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

What you gain will be more important than what you lose today, so don't try to hang on to what is clearly moving away from you. Life is an eternal revolving circle — enjoy the ride.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you start something new today, your name will soon be in lights. The new moon means you have the vision, and the confidence, to make a success of whatever you are planning.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

What happens over the next 24 hours will make it clear that a more positive cycle is starting. You don't have to do anything special but you do have to be ready to travel quickly.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you have financial issues to deal with, now is the ideal time to get serious about them. The new moon will inspire you to knuckle down and find solutions to problems that others have given up on.

♓ Pisces

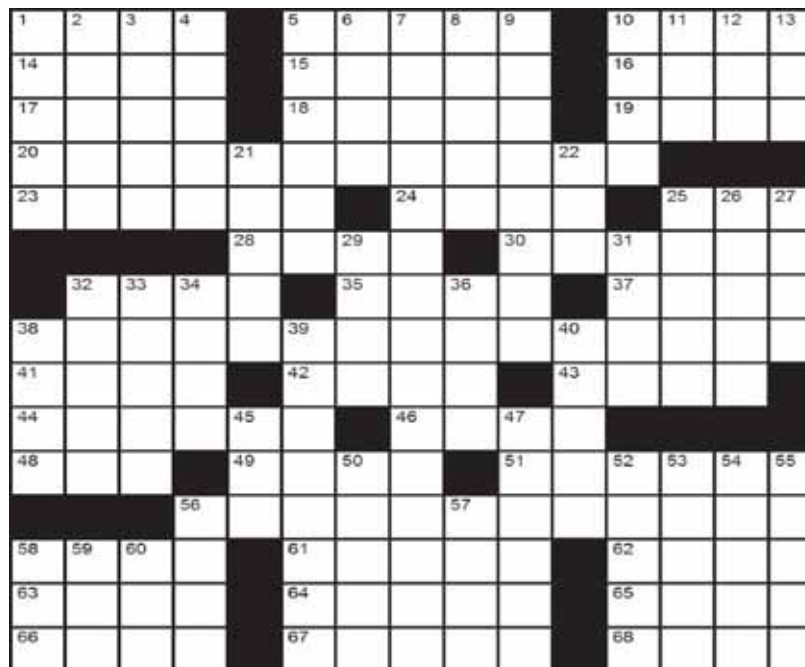
Feb. 20 - March 20

You cannot afford to be soft or sentimental. Cosmic activity in your opposite sign demands that you see things, relationships especially, as they are, not as you wish they might be. Be tough with others but more so with yourself. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Annoyed state
5. Daniel __, Robinson Crusoe author
10. Cape Canaveral org.
14. Culture medium
15. Ring-shaped coral island with a lagoon in the middle
16. Amazes
17. Trojan princess in Mozart's opera Idomeneo
18. 'R' of US state RI
19. Slowly advance
20. tiff. = Toronto International ____
23. Maintain, as an opinion
24. Necklace bit
25. Slalom
28. Dubuque's locale
30. Wobble
32. Used a loom
35. Singer style
37. Annoy
38. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is on them: 3 wds.
41. Roll ____ (Have one's turn in board game playing)
42. Plane crash investigation agcy.
43. Depend on
44. Movie legend Marilyn (b.1926 - d.1962)
46. ____ hat for the



47. Meadow mom
49. ____ collar
51. Media company acquired by Bell
56. Canada Post business: 2 wds.
58. "Whoopie!"
61. Easily duped
62. Perceived
63. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn, star of the flick at #57-Down

64. Decorative pin holders
65. Actress, ____ Rachel Wood
66. Russian city
67. Convened again
68. Prefix to 'phone'

Down

1. Seaport of Israel
2. Citrus hybrids
3. Gets an F on
4. Set up

5. ____ be different (Nonconformist's credo)
6. Shakespearean suffixes
7. Where to attend a CFL game: 2 wds.
8. Musical blast from the past
9. "Love in an ____" by Aerosmith
10. Painting holder
11. Barley bristle

12. "Hey! Hold on a ____!"
13. Volcanic eruption stuff
21. Used a pan
22. Fruit drink
25. Motionless
26. ____ green
27. Furies
29. Mr. Disney
31. ____ Canal
32. Franz Lehar operetta, The Merry ____

33. Sheep-like
34. Sharply turn
36. ____ International (Canadian womenswear chain, once)
38. Renown
39. Stand-up's quick joke
40. Enforcer in "The Godfather" (1972), Luca ____
45. Chance ____ lifetime
47. Most faint
50. Uplift
52. Clicker-holder's target: 2 wds.
53. Actor Christopher
54. "He's ____ Nowhere Man..." - The Beatles
55. Jeff of ELO
56. Docile
57. "A Letter for ____" (1946)
58. British Sci-Fi series, "Doctor ____"
59. Sing wordlessly
60. First aid team [acronym]

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

19°/8°
Rain

70%

Friday

16°/8°
Sunny

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